



**BERT VAN MANEN MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FORDE**

Flood Risk Properties – Greenbank

[5 MINUTE STATEMENT]

Speaker, I rise before you today to speak to you about the plight of a group of constituents in my electorate lead by Cameron and Alexandra Hoswell of Greenbank.

After the floods that hit in February last year, Cameron and Alexandra were mostly unaffected, just like their neighbours in surrounding the properties. During the February Floods, the water only came up to the footpath outside of their homes.

Speaker, many of these property owners have lived at their homes for almost 40 years and in that time, they have never been affected by flooding.

It wasn't until they shopped around for a different insurance policy, that Cameron and Alexandra were told they could not be insured with their normal policy any longer. Why?

Because their property had now been classified as a 'floodway'.

Not long after this Speaker, they all received letters from the Logan City Council advising them that due to 'flood risk' and 'updated flood mapping' that their properties were at risk of flooding.

Speaker, the fact of the matter is that Logan City Council have not even attempted to unclog the wildlife corridor around these properties, so that water can actually flow. The storm drains are chock a block around many of these homes, and to be honest, it's simply not good enough.

In my view, this comes down to Computer Modelling based on rainfall, rather than someone from Logan City Council

physically inspecting the area, or doing a clean-up, which has never been done.

After making several reports to council about broken drainage and blocked-up drains, nothing has been fixed apart from more soil being put on top of the affected areas to simply cover it up.

I can tell you from experience that there has never been flooding in this area. And I can confirm that there is no way that this area is a floodplain.

So, why has the Logan City Council not come out and taken photos or inspected the area? That question falls with Councillor Natalie Wilcocks.

Councillor Wilcocks and the Logan City Council have a lot to answer for. They are simply creating a blanket rule on everything, rather than looking at where the rain actually does fall.

Speaker, I don't know about you but my definition of a major flood is the influx of water from the Logan River and where these land owners are situated is nowhere near the Logan River.

This is just simply not good enough for this group of property owners at Greenbank, led by Cameron and his wife Alexandra.

I implore Councillor Wilcocks, and the Logan City Council to get this sorted immediately. Not this year, not this month, not tomorrow – NOW. Cameron, Alexandra and their neighbours are not asking for much, just an appropriate resolution.

The council are refusing to see the bigger picture here Speaker and have to date refused to meet with Cameron, Alexandra or any of their neighbours on this issue.

Unfortunately, Speaker, I know of five properties that ARE flood affected that the Logan City Council should be doing something about, yet they still have not moved on their stance.

So, let's cut to the chase. Logan City Council need to come out and see these residents, and look at all the areas in question BEFORE making a final assessment. It really is that simple.

It is about time that the Logan City Council stopped messing with the lives of their landowners, and actually did something about the problem rather than ignoring it, hoping it will just go away.

ENDS

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